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July 7, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGDALE WOMAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY FRAUD

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Tiphannie Tyesh Brown, age 21, of Springdale, Maryland was sentenced today by the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. to 1 year in prison and ordered to pay \$79,000 in restitution for conspiracy to commit identity fraud.

In the spring of 2001, the defendant worked as a temporary employee and was assigned to work at a federal government agency. While working at the agency, Brown had access to employment records that contained the dates of birth, social security numbers, and places of residence for several government employees. During her employment there, Brown unlawfully obtained the personal information of at least 50 government employees. Between the summer of 2001 and the fall of 2002, Brown and co-defendant John D. Kennedy, age 25, of Cheltenham, Maryland, used the employee's personal information to obtain fraudulent identification cards which they used to apply for and obtain lines of credit and credit cards in the victims' names. Law enforcement officers recovered merchandise obtained by Brown and Kennedy at Brown's residence and two storage units, as well as resumes containing the personal information of an additional 40

people.

On January 24, 2003 Kennedy pled guilty to conspiracy to commit identity fraud and on April 9, 2003 was sentenced to 2 years in prison and ordered to pay about \$75,000 in restitution.

This case was investigated by the Health and Human Services, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Social Security Administration. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gina L. Simms.